

Ayutthaya

The Gorgeous Land

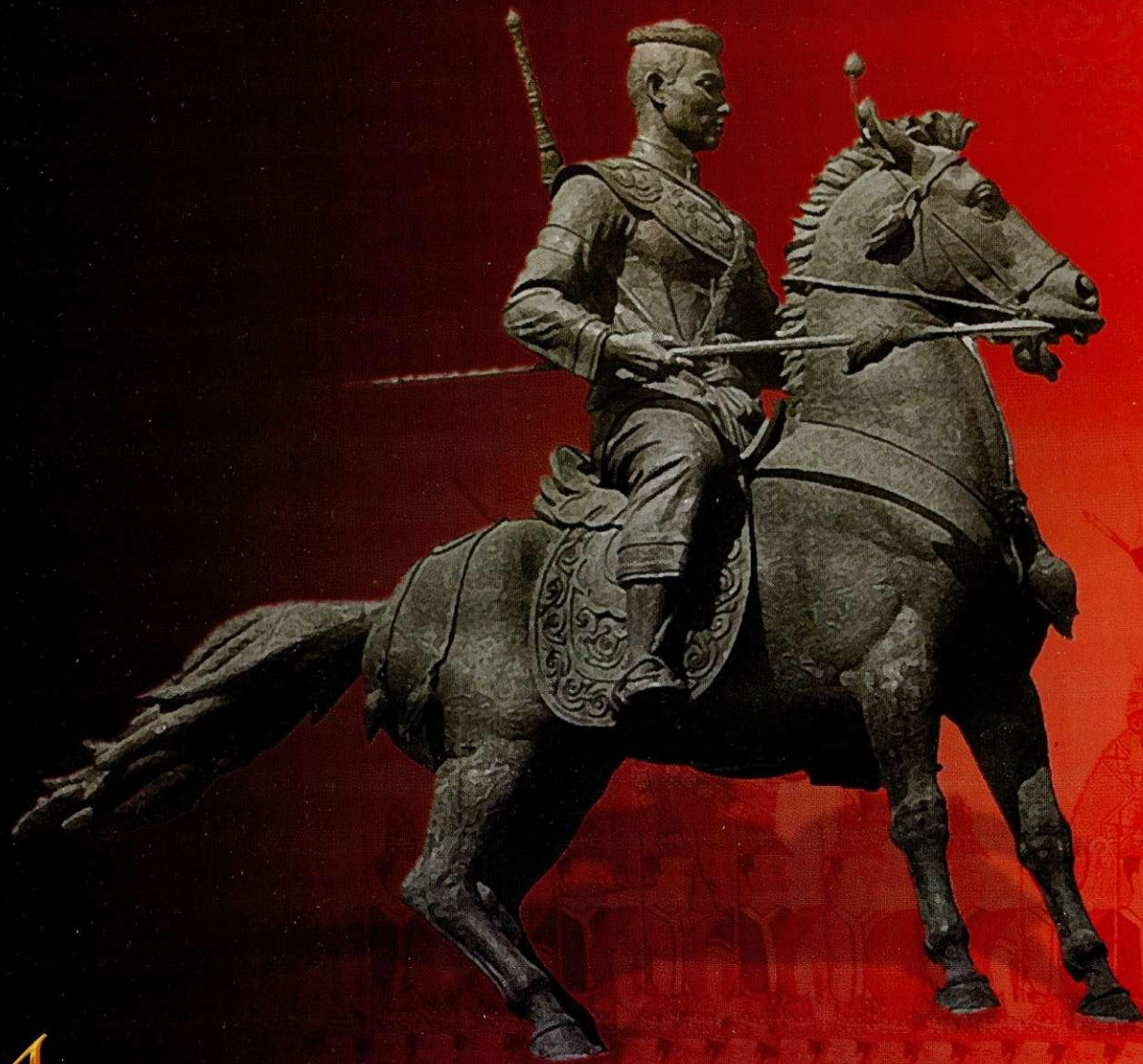




Visit Ayutthaya to witness the prosperity of



the past and enjoy the delight of the present.



Ayutthaya : The Gorgeous Land





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Welcome to Ayutthaya, the gorgeous land with 3 rivers meet.

Ayutthaya is one of Thailand's world heritage sites. It was founded as Phranakorn Sri Ayutthaya, the capital of Siam in 1350 by King Uthong. Ayutthaya was later ruled by 33 kings of 5 dynasties, each contributing to the kingdom's many cultural treasures. One of its greatest kings was King Naresuan who defeated the Burmese in an epic battle while riding on an elephant in 1592.

At the tide of glory, Ayutthaya was one of Asia's most prosperous cities with an abundance of magnificent temples, palaces and pavilions, signifying its wealth and prosperity.

In its time, it was one of the greatest cities in the world visited by foreign ambassadors, traders and military volunteers who came to join the army. With the culture and civilization so outstanding and timeless, UNESCO declared the Ayutthaya Historical Park a cultural world heritage site in 1991.

Today, it is a lively destination offering so many ways for tourists to find happiness on earth.



Ayutthaya : Sightseeing



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A good starting point for your sightseeing is the national museum at Ayutthaya. This will give you a good perspective on the historical aspects. Then it is time to follow the journey that many believe will bring you good luck: visiting Ayutthaya's nine temples.

They are Wat Yai Chai Mongkol, Wat Phanan Choeng, Wat Suwan Dararam, Wiharn Phra Mongkol Bobhit, Wat Na Phra Meru, Wat Choeng Tha, Wat Sala Pun, Wat Kasatrathirat, Wat Thammaram.

After being blessed with good luck, it is time to visit some other nearby attractions. These include the Royal Palace at Bang Pa-In, the Royal Handicraft Center under the patronage of HM Queen Sirikit. This is a beautiful compound beside the Chaophraya River at Bangsai where you can see handicrafts being made and also available for purchase.

The Elephant Kraal just beyond Ayutthaya Island was used to capture wild elephants that were then trained for battle. Beyond the kraal is the pavilion used by kings who presided over the event.

During the height of its glory, nationals from many lands visited and were granted areas to establish settlements. Two of these were the Portuguese village and on the opposite side of the Chaophraya River, the Japanese village at Tambon Koh-rian.

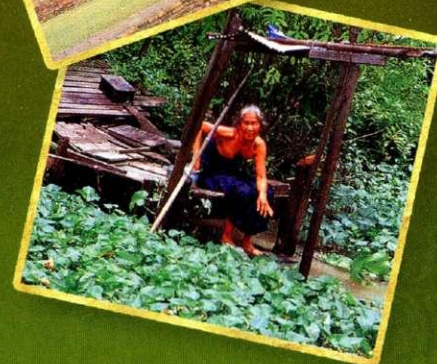
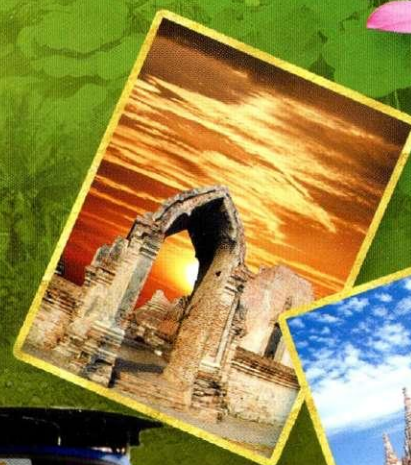


Ayutthaya : Getting Around



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Ayutthaya is a fun place for getting around. If you are feeling energetic, you can rent a bicycle to tour the city or take a tricycle tour day or night. The real traditional way is to ride on an elephant wearing a colorful costume. Inner Ayutthaya is an island surrounded by the Chaophraya, Pa Sak and Lop Buri Rivers. A river cruise gives you a particularly enjoyable view of the city. This is a specially sold if you take the dinner cruise and see the city light bulbs at sunset.

For more rural tastes of life, take a canal tour to see Thai-styled houses in the outer area.



Ayutthaya : Souvenirs

Popular souvenirs available at Ayutthaya include colorful fish mobiles and traditional knives produced in the village of swords or Arunyik Village.



Ayutthaya : Delicious Food

Being surrounded by rivers and canals, Ayutthaya has an abundance of fresh water prawns and fish. You can enjoy lunch or dinner at one of the many riverside restaurants or on a cruise along the river. Local snacks include "Roti Sai Mai" which is something like a crape with colored spun sugar. Truly delicious! Canals also have their own lunch style with women in boat preparing noodles for all to enjoy. These are called "Kuaytaew Rue" which translates as "Boat noodle".



Ayutthaya : *Festivals*

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The Bangsai Arts and Crafts Fair is held in January to showcase the products created under the patronage of HM Queen Sirikit. The two major national festivals, Songkran and Loy Krathong are very beautiful in Ayutthaya and at Bangsai.

December is the month to see the Ayutthaya World Heritage Site Celebrations at Ayutthaya Historical Park.

Come to Ayutthaya to discover a new way to find happiness on earth in this gorgeous land!

Special thanks to : Tourism Authority of Thailand.

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Ayutthaya Provincial
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